

OLC RECORD COPY

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OLC # 78-2469

29 June 1978

John McCone
John McCone

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with HSCA Staffers

1. The undersigned, in the company of Messrs [redacted] met with Messrs. Blakey, Cornwell, and Goldsmith yesterday for about two hours, starting at about 1600. After some preliminary bowing and scraping as to who would go first, I started.

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[redacted]

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3. I reported that we had notified Mr. John McCone of the HSCA desire to interview him. I said that this had been done through Walter Elder, now with Resource Management Staff. Elder had been the DCI's Executive Assistant when McCone was Director, and was the channel through which Mr. McCone preferred to have contacts of this sort made. Elder had reported that Mr. McCone was departing his home for Seattle at the time of his telephone conversation with him, and that he had not heard further. I had spoken with Mr. Elder about dealing directly with the HSCA and gave them his telephone number [redacted]. Elder will keep us posted of developments.

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4. I stated that we are trying to look ahead to potential problems that can be resolved before the last minute. I asked specifically what plans they had for the public hearings in September, and what they would require of us. I specifically noted our interest in security considerations. Mr. Blakey said they have been thinking of it also, and he would come back to us on this in ten days. I replied this would give us plenty of time to address the problem.

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CL by [redacted]

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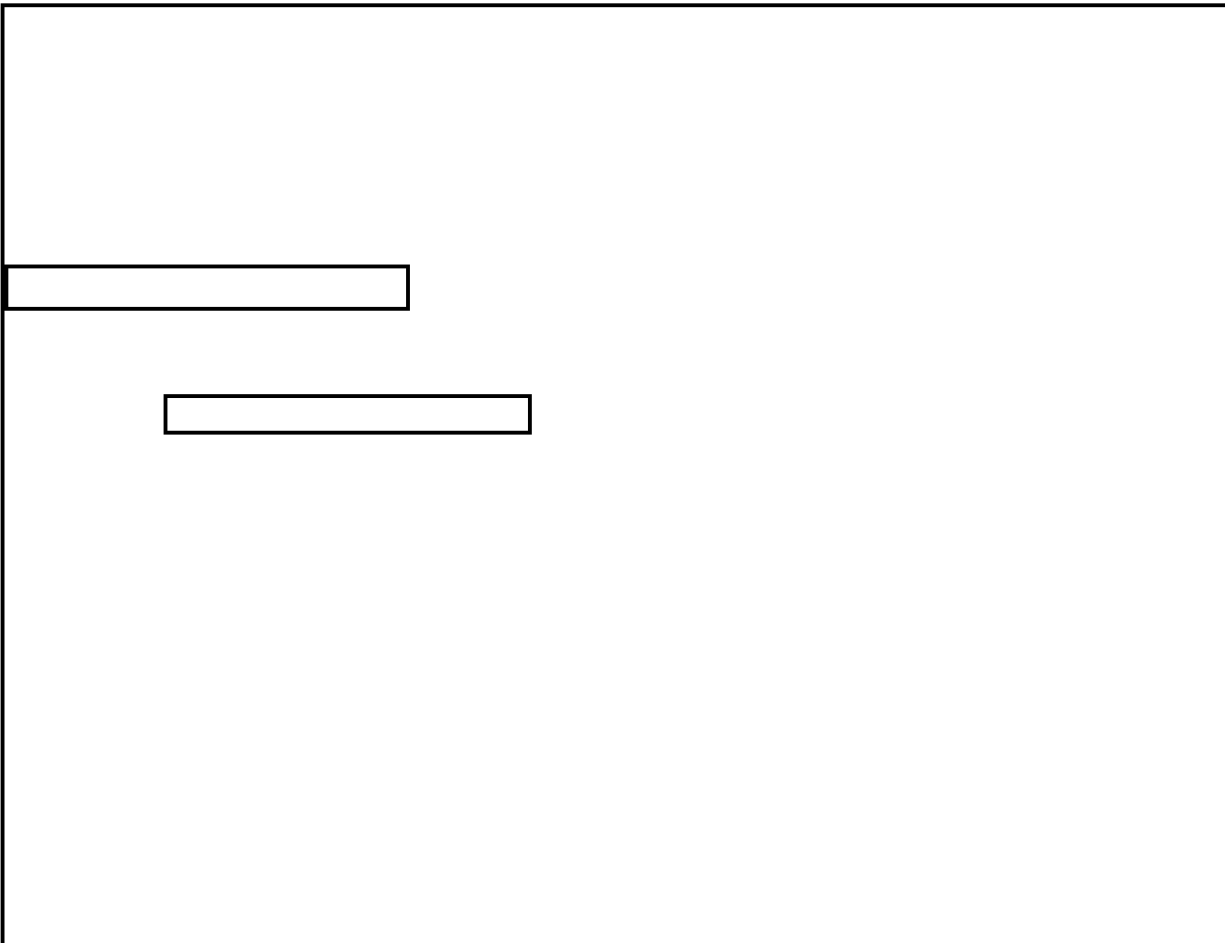
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5. I noted that I had written asking for an up-to-date statement of the internal practice of access within the HSCA staff. I knew that they observed a need-to-know principle and it would be helpful to us to know who was approved for access to certain matters. After saying that everyone was cleared basically, with some having extra clearances, he said that the basic principle was by team. I noted that the [redacted] issues involved sensitive matters, and who should be given access to this was useful information to us. He said he would check my written request--which he did not recall--but did not make any other commitments.

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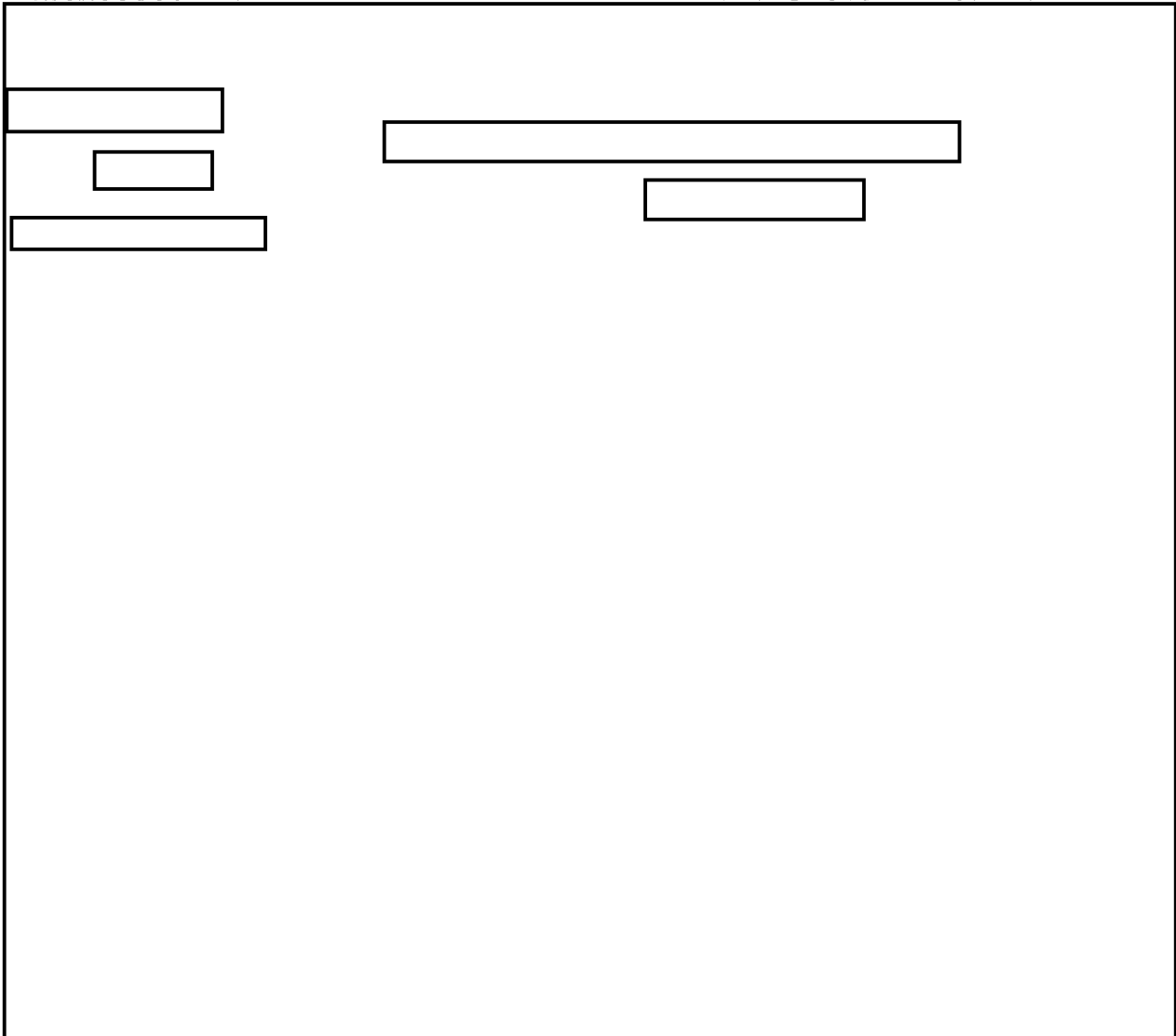
7. Blakey said that things had changed since his early days. Full agreements had been reached quickly, then, but now things took longer. He noted the atmosphere, and also noted the "changing of the guards" (referring to my arrival). I said that one of the first things I noted

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in arriving on the scene was the atmosphere. I had given it considerable study, and felt that there was at least a problem of communications. I stated that it is clear to me that we say things to one another that are not heard or understood.

8. I undertook to tell them one thing I had done to plumb the matter. I said that I knew they tested hypotheses, and I had done the same thing. My experience was that there is a temptation on the part of some congressional staff investigators to plant versions of things in the minds of witnesses and then extract answers on the basis of that. I



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This is to record an understanding about handling certain specific classified materials relating to two subjects of interest to the HSCA in its investigation; the subjects relate certain subject matter in an agreed foreign country. The materials consist of CIA documents and materials (now held in CIA facilities located in the HSCA area mentioned below), materials derived from CIA documents but involving HSCA analysis, and HSCA-generated materials consisting of notes of interviews, depositions and/or transcripts of hearings.

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The CIA will provide and install a two-combination safe in the special area provided for it in HSCA quarters (herein referred to as the "beachhead"). HSCA security officers will set the combination of one of the two locks, and CIA security officers will set the other, each combination to be held exclusively by the representatives of the respective organizations.

The two-combination safe will be used to store only materials relating to the two above subjects. Access to the materials in the two-combination safe will be controlled by CIA security officers, according to a list of approved personnel agreed between HSCA and CIA. Use of the materials will be limited to the room in which the safe is located in the HSCA area.

Upon conclusion of the investigation the materials will be handled as follows:

1. All CIA materials will be returned to CIA.
2. All materials not generated by HSCA hearings, or depositions or formal interviews, but including information derived from CIA documents and materials will be returned to CIA.
3. All notes of formal HSCA interviews, depositions and transcripts of hearings, will be delivered by HSCA to HPSCI for retention.
4. The safe will be returned to CIA.

This understanding is in addition to and separate from another agreement of operation of that aspect of the CIA beachhead for support of interviews, deposition and/or hearings of the Committee and its staff, which is recorded in a separate document.

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